

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /104 W

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P R 230052Z APR 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7050

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

DOD (OSD/ISA) WASHDC UNN

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, MARR

SUBJECT: UN PEACEKEEPING - DOD RECALL OF LT. COL. JAMES

L. RABDAU, SENIOR US/UNTSO OBSERVER

1. USYG WILLIAM BUFFUM (US) ON APRIL 22 EXPRESSED TO AMB BENNETT AND MISOFFS UN CONCERN OVER "PRECIPITOUS ACTION" TAKEN BY DOD IN RECALLING LT. COL. RABDAU FROM DAMASCUS. ACCORDING TO BUFFUM, RECALL OF RABDAU PRIOR TO EXPIRATION OF HIS UNTSO TOUR IN JULY RESULTED FROM MINOR PERSONAL CLASH BETWEEN RABDAU AND A CANADIAN LIEUTENANT COLONEL WITH UN WHILE RABDAU WAS ON LEAVE. CANADIAN REPORTEDLY WENT TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS TO COMPLAIN TO AMBASSADOR ABOUT RABDAU'S BEHAVIOR; BASED ON THIS AND SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATION BY UNTSO OPERATIONS OFFICER (ACTING IN US RATHER THAN UN CAPACITY), RABDAU WAS RECALLED BY DOD. UN QUESTIONS WHETHER ALL FACTS WERE KNOWN PRIOR TO ROBDAU'S RECALL.

2. BUFFUM QUESTIONED PROCEDURES EMPLOYED BY USG IN RECALLING RABDAU. MAIN CONCERN WAS THAT INCIDENT WAS NOT BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF UNTSO CHIEF OF STAFF ERSKINE IMMEDIATELY AFTER US EMBASSY LEARNED OF MATTER. BUFFUM SAID UN EXPECTED RABDAU'S HASTY RECALL TO HAVE SERIOUS NEGATIVE IMPACT ON
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MORALE OF UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN MIDDLE EAST. HE

ADDED THAT UN ASSESSMENT OF RABDAU'S PERFORMANCE, AT HEADQUARTERS AND IN THE FIELD, IS THAT RABDAU WAS AN OUTSTANDING MILITARY COMMANDER AND AN EXPERIENCED UN OBSERVER. BUFFUM ASKED FINALLY THAT US RECONSIDER AND RETURN RABDAU TO UNTSO SOONEST.

3. REQUEST GUIDANCE FROM DEPARTMENT ON HOW TO REPLY TO UN ON CERCERNS EXPRESSED BY BUFFUM, AS WELL AS APPROPRIATE INFORMATION ON REASONS FOR RABDAU'S RECALL.
SHERER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, PEACE OBSERVATION MISSIONS, RECALLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN01708
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760153-0676
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760427/aaaaawkp.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UN PEACEKEEPING - DOD RECALL OF LT. COL. JAMES L. RABDAU, SENIOR US/UNTSO OBSERVER
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, US, UN, UNTSO, (RABDAU, JAMES L)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006